

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 02198 311837Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1610

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, FR, UR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: ABRASIMOV-WORMSER MEETING, OCT 29

REF: USBERLIN 671

1. SUMMARY: WHILE ATMOSPHERE AT ABRASIMOV-WRMSE
LUNCHEON OCT 29 WAS REPORTEDLY MUCH IMPROVED OVER
PREVIOUS MEETING, SOVIET AMBASSADOR NONETHELESS
VOICED NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OVER WESTERN "VIOLATIONS"
OF QA AND OVER "ANTI-SOVIET" ACTIVITIES IN WEST
BERLIN. HE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO INCREASING FEDERAL
PRESENCE IN CITY; CRITICIZED REPORTED SCHMIDT
INTENTION TO RAISE QUESTION OF CHINESE CONSULATE
GENERAL WITH PEKING OFFICIALS; AND EXPRESSED CONCERN
OVER ELECTION OF BERLIN DEPUTIES TO EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT. ABRASIMOV PLACED BLAME FOR CANCELLATION
OF SOVIET MAYOR' VISIT SQUARELY ON FRG AND SENAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 02198 311837Z

AND HE MADE VEILED THREATS OF RETALIATION FOR

VYATKIN AFFAIR. FOR HIS PART, AMBASSADOR WORMSER ONLY RAISED QUESTION OF ASSURING UNINTERRUPTED MOVEMENT OF ALLIED TRAFFIC DURING PROJECTED RECONSTRUCTION OF BERLIN-HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN, TO WHICH ABRASIMOV RESPONDED IN NON-COMMITTAL MANNER. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH MISSION HERE HAS PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF WORMSER-ABRASIMOV LUNCHEON CONVERSATION AT SOVIET EMBASSY OCT 29. SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS REPORTEDLY "MUCH MORE COURTEOUS" THAN DURING PREVIOUS MEETING WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 4 (REFTEL), BUT HE NONETHELESS WASTED NO TIME IN DRAWING FRENCH ATTENTION TO NEW VIOLATIONS OF QA THAT HE ALLEGED HAD OCCURRED SINCE THAT TIME.

3. ABRASIMOV HAD SIX POINTS TO RAISE:

A. FACT THAT FEDERAL REPUBLIC CONTINUED TO WISH TO INCREASE ITS PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN, AS EVIDENCED BY PROVISION FOR DM 12 MILLION IN CREDITS FOR 1976. (COMMENT: WE ARE UNSURE WHAT THIS FIGURE IS, BUT PRESUME IT REPRESENTS PLANNED INVESTMENT IN NEW OR EXPANDED FEDERAL OFFICES HERE). SOVIETS HAD PARTICULARLY IN MIND PROSPECTIVE ESTABLISHMENT IN WEST BERLIN OF LEADERSHIP ACADEMY OF SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS. WHEN FRENCH SIDE RESPONDED THAT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS REFERRING TO, ABRASIMOV REMARKED LAUGHINGLY THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN POORLY BRIEFED. (COMMENT: ALLIED MISSIONS WERE IN FACT INFORMED BY SENAT ONLY ON OCT 30 OF DECISION OF GERMAN SPORTS FEDERATION TO ESTABLISH LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION ACADEMY IN BERLIN. CONSTRUCTION COSTS ARE TO BE BORNE 60 PERCENT BY FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND 40 PERCENT BY SENAT; OPERATING COSTS ARE TO BE SHARED IN 75-25 RATIO. CONSTRUCTION COSTS WILL BE DM 4/7 MILLION. DETAILS FOLLOW IN AIRGRAM.)

B. REGARDING CANCELLATION OF BERLIN VISIT OF
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 02198 311837Z

SOVIET MAYORS, ABRASIMOV COMPLAINED THAT FRG RATHER THAN SENAT HAD SOUGHT TO INVITE DELEGATION DIRECTLY TO WEST BERLIN AND WITH PROGRAM THAT WAS IN ANY CASE UNACCEPTABLE. HE CRITICIZED ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN WHICH -- HE ALLEGED -- BERLIN AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAD UNLEASHED ON THIS OCCASION BY SEEKING TO PUT ACROSS NOTION THAT WEST BERLIN WAS PART OF FRG. IF SENAT WISHED TO ISSUE DIRECT INVI-

TATION TO SOVIET MAYORS, HE WAS CERTAIN THEY WOULD COME "IN GREAT NUMBERS."

C. ABRASIMOV EXPRESSED CONCERN AT PROBLEM OF ELECTION OF BERLIN DEPUTIES TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

D. AS FAR AS VYATKIN AFFAIR WAS CONCERNED, ABRASIMOV COMPLAINED AT ONE AND SAME TIME ABOUT PUBLICITY, "CALUMNIES" PUBLISHED BY PRESS, AND LACK OF FIRMNESS ON PART OF ALLIES IN TOLERATING ALL THIS. IN PARTICULAR, THERE HAD BEEN ATTACKS ON SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL AND OTHER AGENCIES COVERED BY QA, WHICH IT WAS DUTY OF ALLIES TO PREVENT. ABRASIMOV MADE THREATENING BUT VAGUE ALLUSION TO POSSIBILITY OF COUNTERMEASURES ON HIS PART. HE EVOKED AT SAME TIME IN "VERY VIELED" MANNER UNPLEASANT CHARACTER THAT POSSIBLE ABSENCE OF PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIALLY HOSTILE ACTIONS IN EAST BERLIN COULD HAVE FOR ALLIES. ABRASIMOV SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT CAPITAL OF GDR (AND NOT SOVIET SECTOR), THAT HE WAS AMBASSADOR IN GDR, AND THAT THERE WAS ALSO FRENCH EMBASSY THERE. (THIS LAST REMARK WAS UNDOUBTEDLY REFERENCE TO SENAT-ALLIED JOINT STATEMENT ON BOUNDARY RESCUE -- USBERLIN 1927).

E. ABRASIMOV SAID HE WAS UNEASY ABOUT CURRENT RUMORS OF POSSIBLE OPENING OF CHINESE CONSULATE GENERAL IN WEST BERLIN. IF ALLIES WISHED TO HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH MAOISTS -- WHO WOULD CAUSE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE -- THAT WAS THEIR CONCERN. WHAT HE COULD NOT TOLERATE WAS THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SHOULD CONSIDER HIMSELF ENTITLED TO PROPOSE TO PEKING THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USBERL 02198 311837Z

CONSULATE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. (FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE CARRIED SUCH A REPORT-- USBERLIN 2180.)

F. SOVET AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS LETTERS FROM INHABITANTS OF AREAS NEIGHBORING ON TEGEL ON SUBJECT OF AIRCRAFT NOISE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALLIES COULD REMEDY THIS.

4. FOR HIS PART, AMBASSADOR WORMSER RAISED ONLY ONE SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION WORK THAT FRG AND GDR

WERE PLANNING ON BERLIN-HEMSTEDT AUTOBAHN. HOW DID SOVIETS ENVISAGE KEEPING ALLIES INFORMED OF PROGRESS OF WORK SO AS TO ENSURE THAT ALLIED TRAFFIC WAS NOT AFFECTED? FRENCH SAW TWO STEPS

NECESSARY:

A. SOVIETS WOULD FIRST OF ALL INFORM ALLIES
OF GENERAL CONSTRUCTION PLANS WHEN THEY HAD BEEN
DECIDED UPON; AND

B. ALLIES WOULD THEN BE ADVISED LOCALLY OF
ALL POSSIBLE DETOURS BEFORE THEY ENTERED INTO EFFECT.
IN RESPONSE, ABRASIMOV SOUGHT TO MINIMIZE MATTER

AND IN EFFECT AVOIDED PROBLEM BY SIMPLY NOTING
THAT NEITHER SOVIET NOR FRENCH TRAFFIC WOULD OF
COURSE BE AFFECTED.

5. FRENCH VIEW, IN SUM, IS THAT ON THIS OCCASION
ABRASIMOV SOUGHT ABOVE ALL TO MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL
SOVIET POSITIONS WITHOUT DRAMATIZING MATTERS. HE
LIMITED HIMSELF TO CONVENTIONAL CONGRATULATORY
REMARKS ON GISCARD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AND ON RESULTS
OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE, UNDERSCORING IMPORTANCE
OF CARRYING OUT ALL DOCUMENTS ADOPTED ON BOTH
OCCASIONS.

6. COMMENT: WITH RESPECT TO WORMSER'S RESPONSES,
FRENCH REPORT SAID ONLY "OUR AMBASSADOR REPLIED
JUDICIOUSLY TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS, JUST AS YOURS"
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PAGE 05 USBERL 02198 311837Z

(I.E., U.S. AND BRITISH) WOULD HAVE DONE IN HIS
PLACE." WE HAVE REQUESTED MORE DETAILS FROM FRENCH
MISSION AND WILL FORWARD THESE IF AND WHEN RECIEVED.GEORGE

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